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Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection
Volume 16, No. 1 **January, 1997**

“Alternatives to Waste Disposal” Spring Conference

Plan now to attend a comprehensive conference this spring on alternatives to waste disposal. The conference will be primarily targeted for an audience of municipal leaders, public works officials, and institutions, such as schools, to present the latest information on the following areas:

- Track 1: Hard-to-handle materials - batteries, fluorescent lamps, and paints
 Hazardous waste collection - household, municipal, and small businesses
 SW Issues for Public Works officials
 Beneficial use of certain solid wastes
 Handling of construction and demolition materials
 Road sand sweepings (how to use them)
- Track 2: Making your program more cost effective
 Improving recycling collection efficiencies (RI case study)
 Making recycling cost-effective for small businesses (CT pilot programs)
 Pay-by-the-bag trash collection/negotiating a hauler contract
 Textiles recycling
- Track 3: Pollution prevention for municipalities
 Source reduction in your town offices, schools, and garages
 Waste exchanges/charities who reuse
 Recycling enforcement/illegal dumping clean-up

The conference will be held on Thursday, April 3, 1997, at the Connecticut Hospital Association in Wallingford, CT. Please call Barbara or Willie at (860) 424-3365 for more information or to register.

DEP Presents Latest on Management of Certain Hazardous Wastes

Two papers were recently presented at the Eleventh Annual Hazardous Materials Management Conference on Household, Small Business and Universal Waste. Entitled “Connecticut’s Survey of Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generators” and “Connecticut’s Perspective on Managing TCLP Hazardous and Non-TCLP Hazardous Mercury Containing Lamps”, the latest on management of CESQG waste and mercury containing lamps was presented by Thomas Metzner of the DEP Waste Bureau.

The first presentation reported on the University of Connecticut Institute for Social Inquiry (ISI) survey of conditionally exempt small quantity generators (CESQGs) of hazardous waste, which was conducted for the DEP in July, 1996. The survey was designed to identify the hazardous waste management practices of certain CESQGs. The survey indicated that a significant amount of hazardous waste generated at auto body shops, printers, painters, and high schools and community colleges may be being thrown into dumpsters. In addition, 43% of the high schools and community colleges surveyed reported throwing chemicals from labs down drains or into sewers. The DEP is pursuing a change in the state’s hazardous waste regulations which would allow CESQGs to utilize household hazardous waste collections. The survey indicated that a high number of CESQGs would be willing to utilize HHW collections.

The second presentation discussed mercury containing lamps, also known as fluorescent lamps, and how they are typically classified as a hazardous waste under federal regulation due to the mercury content. However, a major lamp manufacturer has developed a low-mercury lamp which is not hazardous under federal regulations. These lamps still qualify as a hazardous waste according to the Connecticut definition of hazardous waste and need to be managed in accordance with state hazardous waste statutes. This position is subject to review as the Department receives more information on the environmental impact and sources of mercury in the waste stream. Both papers were well received.

Recycling Fluorescent Lamps From Municipal Buildings

Are you aware that fluorescent lamps may contain hazardous concentrations of mercury? Many people who use these lamps are not aware of their mercury content and continue to manage fluorescent lamps by throwing them into the garbage. This can introduce mercury into the environment. Mercury has been identified in the state Pollution Prevention Plan as a pollutant of concern and is targeted for reduction. There is a simple solution for managing fluorescent lamps: recycling.

The City of Hartford has set an example for other municipalities to follow by recently contracting with Northeast Lamp Recycling (NLR) in East Windsor to recycle fluorescent lamps from municipal buildings. Hartford is believed to be the first municipality in the state to establish a fluorescent lamp recycling program for municipal buildings. NLR provides a Department of Transportation approved shipping container to each location to store spent lamps. When the container is full, NLR picks up the container and transports the lamps back to the facility for recycling. It typically costs about 40¢ per lamp recycled.

Estella Knight, Recycling Coordinator for Hartford, established the program by meeting with city officials responsible for waste management for the schools, libraries, and other city buildings and educating them on the need to manage fluorescent lamps as a hazardous waste. Fluorescent lamps typically qualify as a hazardous waste based on their mercury content. Recycling is the most cost effective means of managing fluorescent lamps as a hazardous waste.

Any municipalities interested in recycling their fluorescent lamps can contact the DEP at (860) 424-3365 to receive a fact sheet. It is simple to recycle fluorescent lamps so we can all help reduce the amount of mercury going into the solid waste stream.

DEP Calendar Uses Recycled Material

Each year the DEP Natural Resources Technical Publications Program produces a calendar for sale to the public. Photographs of Connecticut scenes are donated by many photographers, and the calendar is popular for its beauty and usefulness. The goals of the calendar's producers are to use paper and printing techniques that tread as lightly as possible on the earth. This year's calendar was printed on two types of paper (one type for the 4-color photographs and another for the monthly calendars). This provided beauty and functionality with high post-consumer, recycled content papers (25% on photo pages, and 100% on the rest). Vegetable inks were also used. 1997 Resolution: Remember to consider the many pollution prevention possibilities when you order printed materials.

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Meg Enkler, Waste Bureau/Recycling
STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106-5127